

# LANGUAGE ARTS *frequently confused words*



**accept** | to agree to something or receive something willingly

**except** | not including

→ *Examples:* Jonathon will *accept* the job at the restaurant.

Everyone was able to attend the ceremony *except* Phyllis.

**capital** | chief, important, excellent. Also the city or town that is the official seat of government of a state or nation

**capitol** | the building where a state legislature meets  
**the Capitol** | the building in Washington, D.C., in which the United States Congress meets

→ *Examples:* The *capital* of France is Paris.

The *capitol* of Indiana is a building in Indianapolis.

The vice president arrived at the *Capitol* to greet the arriving senators.

**hear** | to listen to

**here** | in this place

→ *Examples:* Do you *hear* this song?

The juice is right *here* in the refrigerator.

**it's** | the contraction for *it is* or *it has*

**its** | shows ownership or possession

→ *Examples:* *It's* nearly time to leave for the football game.

The wagon lost *its* wheel in the mud.

**lead** | a heavy, gray metal

**lead** | to go first, guide

**led** | the past tense of *lead*

→ *Examples:* Water pipes in many older homes are made of *lead*.

This path will *lead* us to the waterfall.

Bloodhounds *led* the police to the hidden treasure.

**loose** | free or not tight

**lose** | to mislay or suffer the loss of something

→ *Examples:* Since she lost weight, her *loose* clothes are *loose*.

If you *lose* your money, you will not be able to get into the park.

**principal** | the first or most important. It also refers to the head of a school.

**principle** | a rule, truth or belief

→ *Examples:* Pineapple is one of the *principal* crops of Hawaii.

One *principle* of science is that all matter occupies space.

**quiet** | free from noise

**quite** | truly or almost completely

→ *Examples:* Dorm policy states residents must be *quiet* after 10:00 p.m. on weeknights.

This enchilada is *quite* spicy.

**their** | belonging to them

**there** | at that place

**they're** | the contraction for *they are*

→ *Examples:* *Their* new puppy is frisky.

Please place all of the newspapers over *there*.

*They're* coming over tonight.

**to** | in the direction of

**too** | also or very

**two** | the whole number between one and three

→ *Examples:* The paramedics rushed to the scene of the accident.

This meal is delicious, and it is low in fat, *too*.

Only *two* of the 10 runners were able to complete the race.

**weather** | the state of the atmosphere referring to wind, moisture, temperature, etc.

**whether** | a choice or alternative

→ *Examples:* We are hoping for warm, sunny *weather* for our family reunion.

We cannot decide *whether* we will drive or fly to the reunion.

**Who's** | the contraction for *who is* or *who has*

**Whose** | the possessive form of *who*

→ *Examples:* *Who's* in charge of the lighting for the stage?

*Whose* bicycle is out in the rain?

**you're** | the contraction for *you are*

**your** | the possessive form of *you*

→ *Examples:* We called to ask if *you're* planning to attend the party.

*Your* term paper will be due four weeks from today.

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